



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement in Response to Second Interim Billing Announcement

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
3/10/2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Mr. Secretary General, for your report today.

We share your hope that an agreement may be reached soon on new scales of assessment and a 2005 budget that are acceptable to all participating States. A budget and scales are basic and essential to the proper financial management of the OSCE.

We recognize that you, as the OSCE's Chief Administrative Officer, have tough choices to make. We appreciate that you have taken the time to brief us on your plans for a second interim billing.

We hope that we will be able to work with our colleagues here to reach consensus on a budget and scales before that bill goes out. But, if not, we call on you to send that bill as early as possible, so that we have the time necessary to work with our own bureaucracies to turn around a payment.

A second billing does not take us off the hook to act responsibly and reach an agreement; it is provided for in the financial regulations.

We look forward to continuing to work on this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.